

67. (new) A process for covering a worn tire for vehicle wheels, comprising the steps of preparing, around a circumference of a belt structure, a tread of claim 45, and irreversibly linking the tread to the belt structure.

AS

68. (new) A method for increasing wear resistance of a tire, the tire being provided with at least one carcass ply on which a belt structure is circumferentially applied, and with a tread circumferentially applied around the belt structure and externally provided with a rolling surface suitable to get in touch with the ground, wherein the tire is provided with a tread of claim 45.--

#### REMARKS

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment together with a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b).

In this Amendment, Applicants add a section heading and an Abstract of the Disclosure to conform to U.S. practice. Additionally, Applicants add claims to the right of priority and benefit. Further, Applicants cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-34, and add new claims 35-68, which include the same subject matter as the original claims, to improve clarity. The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to the specification and the addition of new claims 35-68. No new matter was introduced.

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#### LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment,  
please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 

Lawrence F. Galvin  
Reg. No. 44,694

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LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000